

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



Reply to Attn of:

February 12, 2008

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the 2008 Future Forum in Columbus, Ohio on February 21, 2008

During 2008, NASA and other aerospace leaders will sponsor a series of Future Forums throughout the United States. Specific sites include: Seattle, Washington; Columbus, Ohio; Miami, Florida; San Francisco, California; Boston, Massachusetts; and Chicago, Illinois. These forums will consist of NASA leadership, astronauts, scientists, and engineers along with local business, technology and academic leaders and local, state and federal officials. They will discuss the role of space exploration in advancing science, engineering, technology, and education for the benefit of local communities and the nation. These presentations will feature an exciting preview of NASA's Constellation Program and will highlight America's future plans for space exploration.

On February 21, 2008, the COSI Columbus, Hands On Science Center, in Columbus, Ohio will host the second Future Forum. The co-sponsors of the event are Ball Aerospace, COSI, Battelle, Ohio State University, Tech Columbus, NorTech, and Ohio Space Grant Consortium. Registered attendees include members of the public; media; aerospace industry; scientific community; NASA employees; local, state, and Federal officials; and academia. Approximately 150 people have registered to attend the forum featuring three panel discussions, an astronaut presentation, and a lunch with a keynote presentation by the Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor, State of Ohio. The cost of the luncheon is approximately \$45.00 per person.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because they will have the opportunity to share views on the Constellation Program and discuss other NASA projects and their results. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from a NASA Headquarters ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone